

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 MC-01 ACDA-05 EB-07 AID-05 SNM-02 CU-02 /077 W

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R 061601Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7121

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USEUCOM

CINCUSAFE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH REACTION TO PROSPECTIVE MILITARY AID CUTOFF

1. AS DEC 10 DATE FOR CUTOFF OF U.S. MILITARY AID APPROACHES, PUBLIC REACTION IN TURKEY REMAINS LOW KEY, POSSIBLY AS RESULT OF:

A. WIDELY HELD IMPRESSION HERE THAT DEC 4 SENATE ACTION HAS IN FACT POSTPONED EFFECTIVE DATE OF CUTOFF UNTIL MID-FEBRUARY. IN REPORTING SENATE VOTE, FOR EXAMPLE, TURKISH PRESS DID NOT MENTION PENDING HOUSE ACTION ON FOREIGN AID BILL, PROSPECTIVE EFFORTS TO RESTORE ORIGINAL EAGLETON AMENDMENT LANGUAGE, OR POSSIBILITY BILL MAY NOT BE PASSED IN TIME TO PREVENT CUTOFF FROM GOING INTO EFFECT (AT LEAST TEMPORARILY) UNDER CONTINUING RESOLUTION AUTHORITY.

B. GOVERNMENT LEADERS' RESTRAINT ON SUBJECT. THERE HAS BEEN NO EFFORT TO AROUSE WIDESPREAD SHOW OF PUBLIC OPPOSITION AND RESENT-

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MENT (SUCH AS APPEARED LAST SPRING OVER OPIUM POPPY ISSUE).

GOVERNMENT MAY WELL WISH TO AVOID POSSIBILITY THAT PUBLIC REACTION WOULD TIE ITS HANDS IN DEALING WITH US ON THIS AND OTHER SUBJECTS.

C. PREOCCUPATION WITH INTERNAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND CYPRUS ISSUE.

2. ONE ILLUSTRATION OF THIS LOW-KEY REACTION IS IN EDITORIAL COMMENTARY. FOLLOWING INITIAL FLARE-UP OF OUTRAGE AFTER CRA PASSED IN OCTOBER, PRESS HAS SETTLED DOWN TO OCCASIONAL AND RESTRAINED EDITORIALS ON CUTOFF.

3. HOWEVER, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD REPEATEDLY IN OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE CONTACTS THAT WE MUST EXPECT SIGNIFICANT AND FAR-RANGING PUBLIC REACTION IF AND WHEN AID IS ACTUALLY CUT OFF. LOCAL UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, FOR EXAMPLE, RECENTLY REITERATED TO US COMMONLY HELD VIEW THAT AID CUTOFF WOULD BE WIDELY INTERPRETED HERE BOTH AS PRO-GREEK MOVE AND AS LINKED TO HARD FEELINGS IN CONGRESS OVER LIFTING OF OPIUM POPPY BAN LAST JULY, AND THAT IT COULD RAISE SERIOUS QUESTIONS AMONG PUBLIC REGARDING STATUS COMMON DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS AND PRIVILEGES ACCORDED U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL IN COUNTRY. FORMER PARLIAMENT DEPUTY PREDICTED THAT AID CUTOFF WOULD BE "SEIZED UPON BY THE LEFTISTS" AND WOULD BE PORTRAYED AS "AS SECOND JOHNSON LETTER" (A REFERENCE TO 1964 MESSAGE TO GOT WARNING OF POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CYPRUS).

(COMMENT: AS INDICATED IN ANKARA 9480, MILITARY AID CUTOFF WOULD BE A POTENTIAL OCCASION FOR STUDENT VIOLENCE INSTIGATED BY EXTREMIST GROUPS OF RIGHTOR LEFT.)
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